ANNUAL SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE FOR HIV INFECTION IN INDIA

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Date of Initiation : 1998
Date of Approval : 1999
Approved Date of Completion : Ongoing

Summary

Annual Sentinel Surveillance for HIV Infection

NIHFW has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating, monitoring, data analysis and to prepare the country report since 1998, of the Annual Sentinel Surveillance activities by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).

The surveillance was conducted in 1163 sentinel sites in 2010-11. NIHFW held orientation trainings for the officers from all State AIDS Control Societies, Central Team Members Regional Institutes (epidemiologists, microbiologists, faculty from medical colleges/research organizations) to orient them to the operational guidelines for surveillance and conducted supervisory visits to the sites and testing centers for ensuring quality in implementation of the activities.

Progress

NIHFW is again coordinating and monitoring the surveillance in 2012-13. The pre-surveillance meetings were organized at NIHFW in October, 2012, prior to start of surveillance for officers from State AIDS Control Societies, NACO, UNAIDS, WHO and Regional institutes. The surveillance was started on 1st January, 2013 in all ANC and STD sites and completed in March, 2013. Another meeting was held at NIHFW for the thirty five Central Team Members (CTMs) in January, 2013 for monitoring of ANC and STD surveillance sites. The CTMs completed the supervisory visits of the sites for ANC and STD in February, 2013.

The draft version of country report of HSS 2010-11 is in process of finalization.
IBBS (Integrated Behavioral and Biological Surveillance) introduced for first time to strengthen surveillance among High Risk Groups and bridge population and to generate evidence on prevalence and risk behaviors among HRGs and bridge population. NIHFW is a part of Technical Advisory Group to frame the design of IBBS. The activities under IBBS started with PSA (Pre-Survey Assessment) sample frame development, community preparation and data collection.

NIHFW has been identified as a "Regional Institute" for conducting IBBS for Delhi and Rajasthan which has been completed. For monitoring and supervision of PSA, NIHFW has designated 8 SST members for Delhi and Rajasthan. The Quick online feedback by each SST members visiting the domain of PSA has been submitted on the last day of the visit to domain. The feedback report includes details over the feasibility of domain selection for achieving the desired sample size for main IBBS, the foresee challenges for main survey and feedback over the team performance and tool used etc. NIHFW has also submitted the Quick telephonic feedback to NACO regarding problems faced during the PSA, gaps identified regarding implementation of IBBS and suggested changes in monitoring and supervision software prepared for IBBS which was incorporated by NACO as per feedback given by NIHFW. The analysis and report preparation and planning for main IBBS is in process.

Salient Features of HIV Epidemic Profile in India

India's HIV epidemic continues to concentrate on the high risk population groups and is not well established among the general population. This is confirmed by the 2010-11 HIV Sentinel Surveillance data which shows HIV prevalence was less than one percent in general population (ANC-0.4%) where as in Single Male Migrants (0.99%), Long Distant Truckers (2.59%), Female Sex Workers (2.68%), Intravenous Drug Users (7.15%), Men having Sex with Men (4.43%) and Transgender (8.82%). Active networks of risk exist within and between sub-populations, particularly through the bridge population. While this overarching characteristic is translated to sub-national or state level, the trends are clearly not consistent across states irrespective of whether high, moderate or low prevalence among population groups.

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Remarks if any NIHFW is coordinating the Post Surveillance and IBBS Finalization of Strategy meeting scheduled in September, 2013.